AMENDMENT

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph 14 as follows:

Referring to Figures 1 and 4, a vehicle closure assembly 10 includes a closure member 14 that is movable between open and closed positions and supported for this movement by a hinge assembly 18. The hinge assembly 18 is preferably a four bar linkage as is known in the art. A gas spring 27 includes first and second segments 28, 30. The first segment 28 is pivotally attached to the closure member 14 and the second segment 30 is pivotally attached to an arm 20. The arm 20 is pivotally attached to the vehicle ~~body~~ 12 and includes first and second segments 24, 26. Preferably, the second segment 26 is longer than the first segment 24. The gas spring 27 biases the arm 20 about a pivot ~~point~~ 22 such that the second segment 26 lifts the closure member14 to an initial opening pop-up position 34 (Figure 2).

Please amend paragraph 16 as follows:

The initial opening pop-up position 34 (Figure 2) provides a visual reference to a vehicle operator that the closure member 14 is open. In addition, the pop-up position 34 moves the closure member 14 to an initial position such that the initial effort of moving the closure member 14 is reduced. An axis 40 along which the gas spring 27 provides biasing force is close to a hinge axis 45 and therefore provides less counterbalance force and less of an assist at smaller opening positions than at other opening positions where the axis 40 is moved further away from the hinge axis 45. Therefore, the initial opening pop-up position 34 moves the ~~vehicle~~ closure member 14 to a position where counterbalance force of the gas spring 27 is increased to aid in further opening of the ~~vehicle~~ closure member 14.

Please amend paragraph 17 as follows:

The gas spring 27 biases the arm 20 about the pivot ~~point~~ 22 such that the second segment 26 of the arm 20 contacts and pushes upward against the closure member 14. An upward biasing force (shown by arrow 42) exerted by the gas spring 27 acts along an axis 40 defined between the first and second segments 28,30 of the gas spring 27. The biasing force 42 causes the arm 20 to rotate about the pivot ~~point~~ 22 and upward into the closure member 14. A latch 48 holds the closure member 14 in the closed position against the biasing force exerted by the gas spring 27 through the arm 20 when in the closed position indicated at 36 in Figure 1.

Please amend paragraph 18 as follows:

The pivot ~~point~~ 22 is disposed a distance 44 from the axis 40 causing the biased rotation 46 of the arm 20 into the closure member 14. The distance 44 between the axis 40 and pivot 22 provides a desired amount of biasing force against the closure member 14. In response to release of the latch 48; the closure member 14 moves to the initial opening pop-up position (34, best shown in Figure 2). As distance 44 from the axis 40 to the pivot 22 is increased, the magnitude of force transmitted to rotation of the arm 20 is increased. Therefore, location of the pivot 22 relative to the hinge axis [[44]]45 is dependent on application specific parameters, such as member weight and size.